

News, Notes and Queries

SLIDE ARCHIVE AT STONY BROOK

The Slide Archive of Historical Medical Photographs at Stony Brook announces the development of an archive of slide reproductions of photographs pertaining to the history of medical care in America. The collection, created by the Center for Photographic Images of Medicine and Health Care with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, contains 3,000 images, representing a wide range of medical and public health activities from the 1850s to the 1950s. Included are views of physicians and other health care providers involved in numerous clinical and diagnostic procedures; the education and training of health care professionals and of the public; unhealthy living and working conditions in various areas of the country and in different industries; technological developments in medical care; and many other topics encompassed within a broad definition of medicine and health care.

Slide reproductions of photographs are available at cost for educational purposes. An illustrated catalogue, to be published in 1984 by Greenwood Press, will provide a detailed description of the collection and of various other published and unpublished sources of photographs in the history of medicine. Persons interested in information about the archive and with requests for particular images may write to Health Sciences Library, State University of New York at Stony Brook, P.O. Box 66, East Setauket, New York 11733, USA.

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The Annual General Meeting of the British Society for the History of Medicine was held at the Wellcome Institute on Tuesday, 27 September 1983, when it was learned that the President, Dr F. F. Cartwright, had resigned for health reasons.

The following officers were elected: President – Sir Gordon Wolstenholme; Vice-President – Dr K. D. Keele; Honorary Secretary – Dr A. Sakula; Honorary Treasurer – Major J. C. O’Leary; National Delegate – Dr J. Cule.

Correspondence to the Honorary Secretary should be addressed to him c/o Faculty of History, Society of Apothecaries, Apothecaries’ Hall, Black Friars Lane, London EC4 6EJ.

ASPECTS OF BRIGHT

A library exhibition on Richard Bright (1789–1858) has been mounted at the Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew’s Place, London NW1 4LE, and may be viewed there until the end of March 1984.

The first section of the exhibition is entitled “portraits, geology, travels”, and includes not only portraits of Bright but evidence of his own artistic abilities – notably the illustrations to his book, *Travels from Vienna through lower Hungary* (Edinburgh, 1818). The second section, “Bright as physician”, includes his *Reports of medical cases*, vol. 1 (London, 1827), in which he observed that many dropsical patients had well-marked lesions of the kidney and that their urine was coagulable by heat. Vol. 2

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of the *Reports* is also exhibited, reflecting Bright's interest in neurology, and other works demonstrate the wide range of his researches. The third and fourth sections are devoted to "Bright as letter-writer" and "biographical material".

A detailed fifteen-page catalogue of the exhibition is available from the Royal College of Physicians.

A MEDICINAL GARDEN FOR ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS, HAMILTON, CANADA

Royal Botanical Gardens is delighted to announce that a major grant has been offered by Associated Medical Services Inc. for the construction of a medicinal garden. It is expected that work will begin on the garden in 1984.

The first botanic gardens in Europe were set up to support schools of medicine at renaissance universities at a time when plants were the firm base of curative and preventive medicine. Virtually all our current culinary herbs were included there, as were many of the most poisonous plants known to man. The first settlers in North America brought with them their traditional European plants and quickly incorporated the native people's cures into their pharmacopoeia. The neglect into which this plant-based medicine subsequently fell in the Western world has no parallel in China and India, both of which countries continue to use a wide range of species. Today, in the West, there is a revival of interest in medicinal plants at a range of levels which a living collection of them can serve. Thus seed lists from botanic gardens all over the world are being searched for the required species and this effort is supported by a donation from the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture Graduates Association.

The AMS Medicinal Garden will be an important addition to the Royal Botanical Gardens collections and a unique facility in Eastern Canada. It is significant that one of the AMS-funded Hannah Professors of the History of Medicine, Dr Charles G. Roland, based at McMaster University, is involved in RBG's Centre for Canadian Historical Horticultural Studies.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MEDICINE IN THE BIBLE AND TALMUD

The Israel Institute of the History of Medicine is organizing the Second International Symposium on Medicine in the Bible and Talmud in Jerusalem. The Symposium will take place at the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities on 18–20 December 1984, immediately preceding the Congress of the International Society for the History of Medicine in Cairo. The aim of the Symposium is to stimulate further exchange and research, especially as far as the relationship between Talmudic medical data and contemporary knowledge is concerned. The Symposium will therefore be open to medical and general historians, to scholars in biblical and Talmudic studies, to classicists, linguists, public health officers, and physicians. Further information may be obtained from the Symposium Secretary, Dr Samuel S. Kottek, Division of the History of Medicine, The Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical School, 91120 Jerusalem, Israel.

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WELLCOME INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The following Wellcome Symposia will take place at the Institute (183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP) in 1984:

- Friday, 10 February – Vigorous remedies: Samuel Johnson and eighteenth-century medicine
- Friday, 30 March – The history of nursing
- Monday, 21 May – Specialization and British medicine
- Tuesday, 12 June – Medicine and demography

The following exhibitions will be on show to the public in the Library:

- 3 January to 2 March – Dr Samuel Johnson and eighteenth-century medicine
- 12 March to 8 June – Athanasius Kircher (1602–1680)
- 18 June to 12 October – Robert Fludd
- 22 October to 14 December – Addiction

The research seminar (fortnightly, on Wednesdays from 11 January at 5.30 p.m.) will consider 'The History of Medicine in London', with papers from Dr Carole Rawcliffe, Dr Philip Armitage, Miss Margaret Pelling, Mr John Clark, Mrs Rosemary Weinstein, Dr Faye Getz, Mr Richard Wall, Dr Valerie Fildes, Dr Robert van Pelt, Dr Roy Porter, Mr Michael Neve, Dr Roger Finlay, and Dr Thomas Forbes. The seminar and reading group will study 'The History of Wound Treatment', meeting fortnightly on Mondays from 9 January at 4.45 p.m.

Further information concerning the programme may be obtained from the Secretary of the Academic Unit at the above address.